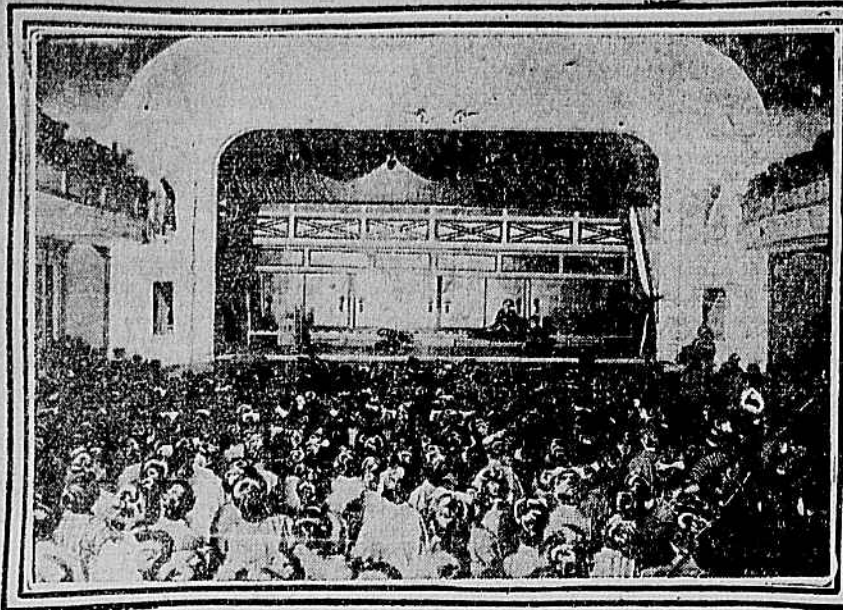
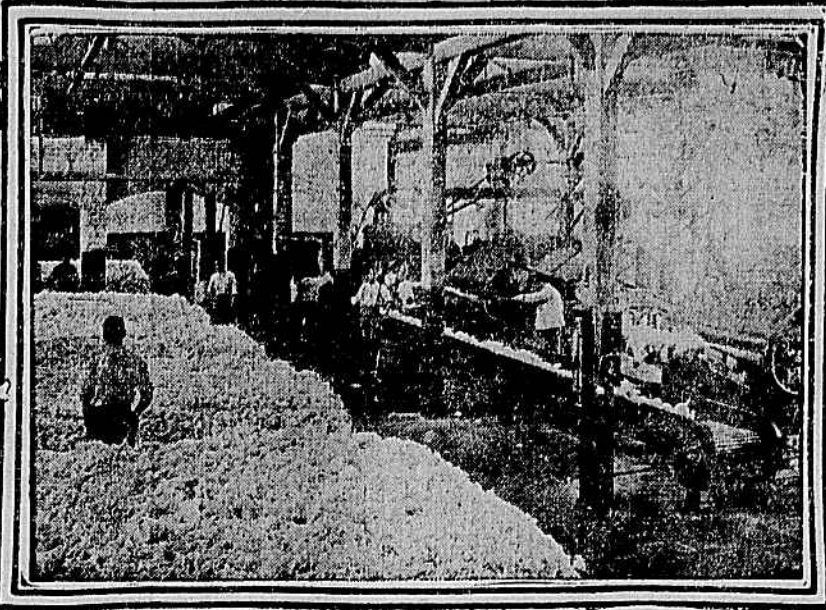


Cotton Factories in Japan Which Are Making Money; Mills Pay From Twelve to Fifty Per Cent. Dividend



Free Theatre Erected for Cotton Mill Hands. This Audience Is Composed of Mill Girls.



BREAKING COTTON AT THE KANEGAFUCHI MILLS.

BY FRANK G. CARPENTER.
Kobe, 1909.

If you want to see how wide awake the Japanese are, come with me and take a look at the Kanegafuchi cotton mill, which lies on the outskirts of Hogo. It is the biggest spinning establishment of the empire, and it belongs to a company which has a capital of seven million gold dollars and paid last year a dividend of 22 per cent. The company has altogether nineteen mills in operation and in course of construction. It has already more than 200,000 spindles at work; and the four new mills now building will add to this 250,000 more. It is putting up mills for weaving as well as for spinning, and when all are completed, it will still have \$10,000,000 worth of working capital to go on.

The company began its work twenty years ago by erecting a spinning mill at Tokyo. It has now two there, and is building a third. It has silk mills at Kyoto, which are rapidly approaching completion, and it will soon have 15,000 spindles in operation there.

Japan's Biggest Cotton Mill.
Of all the establishments of this big corporation the one here at Hogo is the largest. It covers many acres and employs 4,000 hands. Its work runs day and night, and they turn out cotton yarn by the thousands of bales annually. Much of the product is consumed here in Japan, but a great deal goes to the rapidly developing market of China, where it competes with that from our country.

Hogo is the native city for which Kobe is the port. It has, all told, more than 200,000 people; and in going to the cotton mill, our jinnikishas take us through several miles of Japanese stores, over the bridge which crosses the river and almost into the country. We can see the great smokestack of the works long before we come to it. It rises high above the low warehouses and spinning mills, and its dense volume of black smoke poisons the air. The smokestack is made of iron, instead of brick as in the United States. This is that it may

How She Got Rid of Her Fat

Rengo Did It. No Starvation Diet, or Tireless Exercises Necessary. A Free Trial Package Will Convince You.

A woman's form is essentially one of grace; the lines of beauty vanish as fat accumulates and instead of beauty we see bulk, and what was once fair becomes a fright.

Rengo will reduce you. It is perfectly safe. You eat it like fruit or candy and easily and safely reduce your fat a pound a day.

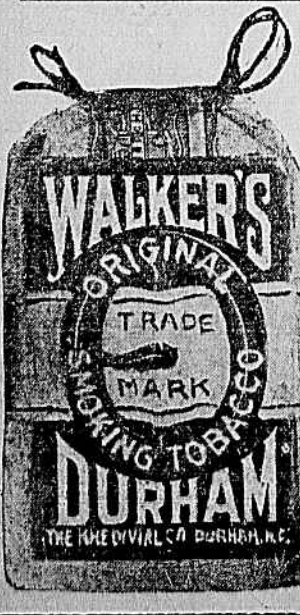
For sale by all druggists at \$1.00 per full sized box, or by mail prepaid, by The Rengo Co., 323 Rengo Bldg., Detroit, Mich. The Company will gladly send you a trial package free by mail. If you will write them direct to Detroit; no free packages at drug stores.

Rengo is for sale and recommended in Richmond by Owens & Minor Drug Co., 1007 East Main Street; People's Drug Co., 3200 Williamsburg Avenue; Fulton; C. W. Eaton, Twenty-sixth and Q Streets; Traylor Drug Co., 817 East Broad Street; and Owens & Minor Drug Co., wholesale distributors, 816 7/8 to California.

Tourist Sleeper without change to Washington Sunset Route, 520 E. Main St., Richmond.

WHITENS PRO-PHY-TOL REFRESHES THE MOUTH

NOT TO COMPETE, BUT TO EXCEL



STANDARD OF QUALITY

ASK FOR
Walker's Durham
EVERYWHERE.

HANCOCK CIGAR COMPANY,
DISTRIBUTORS, RICHMOND, VA.



I Had a Photograph Made of Myself Standing Beside Some of the Child Workers.

the better withstand the earthquakes which occur here every few days, and which at times are so great that they might send a tall brick stack to the ground. For the same reason the large mills are almost all of one story. They are built of brick and are so walled with glass that they are splendidly lighted.

I do not know the acreage, but I went through a wilderness of moving pulleys, whirling spindles, cotton picking machines and other works of various kinds, which took more time than a Sabbath day's journey. Single buildings seemed to reach on and on till one could hardly see the end, and in all was the busy hum of machinery and of Japanese men, women and children working away.

I have seen many of our great mills in the United States, but none in which the cotton is more rapidly and efficiently handled than here. I doubt if we have any in which the work is done with less labor. The finest of up-to-date machinery is employed, and when it was out it goes to the scrap heap. In some rooms, covering an acre, no more than two score men were at work, and one little girl was tending to every machine. In the spinning and reeling rooms there were more, and in some I saw hundreds of men and women at work.

Steam Engines, Home-Made.
I asked whence the machinery came, and was told that some was from the United States, but that more came from England. Japan has not yet begun to manufacture cotton machinery, although it is experimenting with work of all kinds. For instance, the engines which run these big works were constructed at Tokyo. One of them is of 1,500-horse power, and it is as fine as any engine of the kind anywhere.

Connected with the establishment is an experimental weaving mill, which will soon be increased to 400 looms. As it is now, the cotton comes into the mill in bales, being imported from China, India and the United States, and it goes out in smaller bales of cotton yarn, ready for weaving. In the near future much of it will go out in the shape of cotton cloth for the markets

of Japan, Korea, Manchuria and China.

\$3,000,000 in Cotton Bales.

During my visit I went through twelve great cotton warehouses, which are packed full of bales from the ground to the roof, and the manager

tells me that at certain times in the year he has as much as \$5,000,000 worth of raw cotton on hand. The greater part of the cotton used comes from India, although much is from the United States. Kobe, which is one of the chief ports of the empire, lands about \$4,000,000 worth of cotton every year; and of this, \$2,000,000 worth comes from India, \$3,000,000 from China, and over \$10,000,000 from the United States. Our cotton is the best; but the Indian product is cheaper, and the two are mixed in the making of these yarns. The manager complained to me about the bad packing of our American bales, and showed me some of them side by side with bales from Bombay. The latter were beautifully put up and so wrapped that no cotton could be lost. Our bales were broken and torn, and the lint was falling out.

With the Cotton Hands.

As I walked through the mills I asked as to wages and hours of work. There are two shifts, one during the day and the other at night. The hours of actual work are ten; and there are rest hours at 9 A. M., at noon and 3 P. M. The rest times consume about two hours, and with them the working day is twelve hours long. This company does not work its hands on Sundays, as it is common with many of the industries of Japan. It believes in night work. It managers tell me that at most all its cotton mills work both day and night, and that this custom is a great benefit to the spinning industry. As it is now, the demand for cotton yarns is so great that night work is necessary, but in times of depression it is possible to stop the night work until the demand requires it again. By this double work the Japan mills are producing twice as much, per capital and machinery, as mills of other countries where day work only is used. This fact may be one of the reasons for the big dividends which

nearly all the companies are now paying.

I asked as to wages of the mill hands and was told that they are from 22 to 50 sen a day. This means from 11 to 20 cents of our money, or from a little more than 1 to 3 cents for each working hour. At that they are higher than in some other mills, the general wage of cotton spinners throughout this district being about 21 cents for women, 25 cents for men and 6 cents for children.

Girls' Dormitories.
The Kanegafuchi Company is about the most advanced in all Japan as to its methods of handling its employees. It has tenement houses which it rents out at low rates, and also dormitories for men and dormitories for women. I visited one of the latter buildings. It was a two-story structure surrounding a beautiful garden. Its walls were of framework covered with paper, with outer walls of pine wood. It had accommodations for 800 girls sleeping in Japanese fashion on the floor, with several girls in each room. As the night shift was sleeping I was not able to look at many of the rooms, but the few I saw were carpeted with the whitest of mats and warmed by hibachi, or Japanese fire boxes. Outside this they had practically no other furniture. The bedding consisted of futons, or thick wadded comforts, which were packed away in cupboards when not in use. The girls have neither beds, tables nor chairs, and they eat and sleep Japanese fashion upon the floor.

Two-Cent Meals.

From here I went to one of the large dining-rooms which the company has established for its employees. There were four hundred men and women eating with chopsticks, steaming rice, vegetables and fish. They were enjoying the meal and were apparently satisfied. As I looked, the manager told me that they furnished board at a little less than cost price, and that the men were given three meals for 5-1-2 cents per day. This is not quite 2 cents per meal, nevertheless they work all day and grow fat. The manager told me that they lose about 2 cents per day on each man in this feeding them, and when I asked whether the food was uniformly good, the reply came quickly: "Of course it is, and we have to keep it so or we should soon hear from the men."

The company has also a store where it furnishes its employees such merchandise as they want at cost price. This store handles all sorts of Japanese goods, though the men may buy elsewhere if they will. It has food, clothing, notions and everything that appeals to the taste of such people.

Well Treated Workmen.

This company is anxious to keep its men in a good humor. It treats all its employees for its work and does all it can to keep them loyal to the establishment. It takes great pride in the fact that it has some of the best workmen in Japan, and leaves no stones unturned to increase its reputation in this regard. Among the special institutions at the mill is a kindergarten for the little children whose mothers are employed in the mills, and there is a technical school, where picked boys are taught the scientific theory of cotton spinning and practical mill work under competent teachers. This is with the object

I WENT THROUGH A WILDERNESS OF WHIRLING SPINDLES.

of supplying intelligent overseers and foremen for the future.

Another institution which all the Kanegafuchi mills have is a first-class hospital with a corps of physicians and nurses, who attend the sick without charge. The hospitals have spring beds and are thoroughly ventilated and lighted. The one here had a laboratory connected with it for the study of micro-organisms and the investigation of special diseases. The company proposes to build a sanitarium at Takasago, one of the seaside resorts, for its employees; and it has appropriated \$15,000 for the building, and this is now under construction.

In addition to the above, these mills have a pension fund which amounts to \$142,000, a fund for the welfare of the employees of more than \$100,000 and a sanitary fund of \$25,000. The workmen have also societies organized under a company for mutual relief and for the promotion of the general interest of the members. One of these societies has a large income from its members' fees, including a subsidy from the company, and another has a capital of \$100,000.

Japanese Mills Which Pay Big Dividends.

I am told that all the cotton mills of Japan are doing well. In addition to the establishment which I have described there are many others which work day and night, and which propose to increase their capacity and to extend their trade throughout the Far East. They look upon China as their especial market and say that they have the

advantage of all other peoples in understanding the written characters used in the languages of the two countries, and also in their general knowledge of the Chinese people and their customs.

There are now Japanese going over China investigating the markets for cotton; and there are steamship lines which connect Kobe with the big cities on almost all the Chinese rivers. The demand for cotton goods at home is steadily increasing, and there a great effort will be made to push the trade in Korea and Manchuria.

At present there are 113 mills in the country devoted to spinning alone, and these have more than 1,500,000 spindles. They make almost 1,000,000,000 bales of cotton yarn annually; and have a profit therefrom of \$5,000,000 or \$10,000,000. I have before me figures showing some of the dividends paid. In 1905 every cotton mill in Japan paid from 10 to 40 per cent, and in 1906 those were ten companies which paid all the way from 15 to 46 per cent. In 1907 there were two which paid 50 per cent; and the Tokio Grand Yarn Company has paid as high as 70 per cent. Nearly all these companies are adding to their surpluses and are charging off good amounts to the depreciation of their buildings and machinery.

Cotton Weaving.
So far the Japanese have not done a great deal in weaving cotton, but they are now making enough to supply every way through its centre. There are now a number of large mills with something like 10,000 looms. They grew rapidly during the war with Russia, for the army then needed quantities of goods and the prices rose. The cost of blankets went up 100 per cent, and some of the mills were kept busy making kakis. Of what the war required it is estimated that Japan supplied 70 per cent, and only imported 30 per cent.

In addition to the work of the weaving factories, an enormous amount was done in the houses on hand looms. There are now almost 1,000,000 homes in which weaving is carried on, and there are hundreds of thousands of

Do Not Wait Longer.

Pianos and Pianolas
at Your Price.

You need not wait longer to buy that Piano and Pianola. Below we are offering combination prices that mean a wonderful saving to you. Remember, also, that these instruments are in perfect condition.

OFFER No. 1.—One Christie Piano, upright, with ebony case, and one Pianola to match. Also, nice assortment of music. Original price was \$550. Our price,.....	\$235
OFFER No. 2.—One Foster Piano, upright, mahogany case, and one Pianola to match. Also, nice assortment of music. Original price \$600. Our price,.....	\$345
OFFER No. 3.—One Haines & Co. Upright Piano, mahogany case, carved panel, and one Pianola to match. Also, nice assortment of music. Original price \$600. Our price,.....	\$330
OFFER No. 4.—One \$275 Colby Piano, upright, mahogany case, splendid condition. Our price only.....	\$235
OFFER No. 5.—One \$150 Royal Piano, mahogany, upright, carved panel, good condition. Our price only.....	\$210

Walter D. Moses & Co.,

103 East Broad Street, Richmond, Va.
Oldest Music House in Virginia and North Carolina

What Infants, Children & Adults Need at Times is

Castor-Lax

pure Castor Oil in Powder. Absolutely tasteless and odorless.

Given in the bottle or in any liquid or cereal. Prescribed by leading physicians.

At all reliable druggists.

people who work there. The number was more than 1,000,000 ten years ago, but it is gradually decreasing, and more and more of the work is being done in the factories. It is this house weaving industry which consumes a great part of the cotton yarn manufactured here, and it is on hand looms that the most of that which is exported to China and Korea is woven. Many small mills are springing up, some worked by steam and others by water power and electricity. The centre of the weaving industry is about Osaka, which is also the centre of the spinning industry. That city has more than 20,000 houses in which weaving is done. It has scores of large factories, and the smoke from their stacks makes the town seem more like Pittsburgh than any in Japan. Osaka is now as big as Philadelphia, and it has grown greatly within the last few years.

Japanese Mattings.

This region is the centre of the matting industry. There are many factories about Osaka Bay and here in Kobe which make millions of yards of matting for export and millions of mats for home consumption. The Japanese do not use matting like that exported to the United States. The most common carpet here is made up of white straw woven into mats an inch thick, a yard wide and two yards long.

These mats are the unit of surface measurement for almost everything. The rooms of the houses are rectangular, and their sizes are estimated at the number of mats it takes to cover them. When a man orders a house built he directs that it be one of some mats, and the cost of construction is based upon that estimate. These mats are bound with black cloth, and as they fit closely, the floor is covered with a number of these white rectangles surrounded by black. Japan uses 14,000,000 such mats every year, and also 3,000,000 or 4,000,000 pieces of ordinary matting of the same shape. The value of the whole is several million dollars.

As to matting for export, the manufacture of that began less than twenty years ago, and it now brings in something like \$5,000,000 a year. Almost the whole of this export is to the United States, and several million dollars are annually amounting to something like 20,000,000 yards. The most of this is cheap and coarse, but other varieties are as fine as a Panama hat. They are now making new patterns with raised figures. I have just ordered a roll sent home which looks like brocade silk woven of straw.

This matting is made out of a reed which grows about here. It has no knots and is much like rice, although its seed has no value. It is planted and cultivated in this fashion, and is well dried and bleached before it is sold.

The matting is dyed with aniline colors. It is woven like cloth, but all the pieces have to be put in by hand. The work is tedious, and of the finer varieties two men and an assistant can make not more than three rolls per month.

The Japanese are now weaving beautiful straw rugs in flowers and other patterns, and these are exceedingly cheap. I have bought some about six by ten feet in size at 50 or 60 cents each, and the highest price I have paid for any matting is less than 20 cents gold per yard.

The Native Cottons.
The most beautiful cottons made here are intended for native consumption. They are not much more than a foot wide, and are artistically printed in designs far different from the loud figures used on the goods intended for the United States markets. The cotton crepe for home use is beautiful, and it would have a big sale in the United States for curtains if it were sent there. The native cottons are in their everyday summer kimonos.

Another interesting manufacture of cotton is that which the native people employ here for toweling. These have gay figures printed in white and blue. Every firm has its own design, and not a few of the native hotels give away towels of this kind to their guests.

In the past few years quite a craze has sprung up among the foreign ladies visiting Japan to make collections of these towels, and I know many who buy pieces of them for use as fancy tablecloths and handkerchiefs. (Copyright, 1909, by Frank G. Carpenter.)

THE GUARANTEE THAT GOES WITH EVERY CAN OF

LUZIANNE COFFEE

is "money back if not pleased perfectly."

SOLD EVERYWHERE—25 cts.

THE REILY-TAYLOR COMPANY, New Orleans, U. S. A.



We can fit you with a Queen Quality shoe. We know it. We have fitted hundreds of women successfully. They are our permanent Queen Quality customers—wouldn't think of wearing any other make. Won't you give us the opportunity? Your choice of low cuts at \$2.50, \$3.00 and \$3.50.

Hofheimer's